

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Site name: Atascadero Beach State Marine Conservation Area

Year established: 1985

Approximate Area: 3.9 nm²

Approximate Shoreline length: 1.5 nm

Approximate Depth range (feet): 0 to 115

Habitat types: 100% soft bottom

Surrounding Habitat types: similar

Summary of existing regulations: Take of clams is prohibited. Take of other living marine resources is allowed.

Primary objectives: Protect Pismo clams from over harvest

Existing enforcement: Department provides enforcement from shore. The primary purpose of enforcement would be to prevent harvest of sub-legal size clams.

Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies: Transects sampled in winter by The Department to monitor recruitment of young.

Basic Evaluation: Otters have depleted the population of legal size clams to the extent that there are virtually no legal size clams to protect. Thus, the site no longer meets its primary objective.

Published references related to effectiveness of this MPA: 140

Unpublished references related to effectiveness of this MPA: 138

Site name: Morro Beach State Marine Conservation Area

Year established: 1985

Approximate Area: 4.9 nm²

Approximate Shoreline length: 1.9 nm

Approximate Depth range (feet): 0 to 115

Habitat types: 100% soft bottom

Surrounding habitat types: similar

Summary of existing regulations: Take of clams is prohibited. Take of other living marine resources is allowed.

Primary objectives: Protect Pismo clams from over harvest

Existing enforcement: Department provides enforcement from shore. The primary purpose of enforcement would be to prevent harvest of sub-legal size clams.

Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies: Transects sampled in winter by The Department to monitor recruitment of young.

Basic Evaluation: Otters have depleted the population of legal size clams to the extent that there are virtually no legal size clams to protect. Thus, the site no longer meets its primary objective.

Published references related to effectiveness of this MPA: 140

Unpublished references related to effectiveness of this MPA: 138

Site name: Pismo State Marine Conservation Area

Year established: 1977

Approximate Area: 0.05 nm²

Approximate Shoreline length: 0.3 nm

Approximate Depth range (feet): 0 to 16

Habitat types: 100% soft bottom

Surrounding habitat types: similar

Summary of existing regulations: Take of all invertebrates and marine aquatic plants is prohibited except the commercial take of algae other than giant kelp and bull kelp. Take of finfish is allowed.

Primary objectives: To establish baseline for sea otter impact to clam population

Existing enforcement: Department provides enforcement from shore. The primary purpose of enforcement would be to prevent harvest of sub-legal size clams.

Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies: Transects sampled by The Department in winter to monitor recruitment of young.

Basic Evaluation: Otters have depleted the population of legal size clams to the extent that there are virtually no legal size clams to protect. Thus, the site no longer meets its primary objective.

Published references related to effectiveness of this MPA: 140

Unpublished references related to effectiveness of this MPA: 138

Site name: Pismo-Oceano State Marine Conservation Area

Year established: 1985

Approximate Area: 11.9 nm²

Approximate Shoreline length: 4.6 nm

Approximate Depth range (feet): 0 to 115

Habitat types: 100% soft bottom

Surrounding habitat types: similar

Summary of existing regulations: Take of clams is prohibited. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp is prohibited. Take of other living marine resources is allowed.

Primary objectives: Protect Pismo clams from over harvest

Existing enforcement: Department provides enforcement from shore. The primary purpose of enforcement would be to prevent harvest of sub-legal size clams.

Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies: Transects sampled in winter by The Department to monitor recruitment of young.

Basic Evaluation: Otters have depleted the population of legal size clams to the extent that there are virtually no legal size clams to protect. Thus, the site no longer meets its primary objective.

Published references related to effectiveness of this MPA: 140

Unpublished references related to effectiveness of this MPA: 138